

THE CHIRIQUI SURVEY.

REPORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT EXPEDITION.

Topographical, Hydrographical and Geological Features of the Isthmus.

Fine Harbors, Plenty of Coal, and Abundance of Other Minerals.

PRACTICABILITY OF A RAILROAD DEMONSTRATED.

VALUE OF THE GRANT GENERALLY.

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CAPTAIN EVANS'S REPORT.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1, 1860.

Sir—I have had the honor this day to hand in the preliminary report of the Topographical Engineer, Lieutenant J. St. Clair Morton of Lieutenant Wm. U. Jeffers, the hydrographer, and of Dr. Evans, the geologist, and now respectfully submit a few observations of my own. These will be followed by charts of the harbor of Golfito, on the Pacific, and of the beds of coal located on the Chagres and its tributaries.

The marks of Captain Barnett which have changed will be corrected and made perfect by the survey of Lieutenant Jeffers.

The harbors of Chiriquí are so large, deep and well protected that it is difficult to convey to you an idea of them for want of comparison. The anchorage in every port is secure, they have no harbors, and no port of refuge (the gondolas of those waters) cannot above their heads; the sea here is bracing, and that from the mountains cool, giving to the sailor a refreshing night's rest.

We arrived at Boca del Toro, Chiriquí, on the 23d of August—about noon. Mr. Morton, the geologist, and Lieut. Jeffers, the hydrographer, began their work immediately, and carried it on energetically to a successful completion.

When we had finished the harbor of Chiriquí, Lieut. Jeffers was taken to Bagual, and sent with his assistant, Mr. G. B. N. Tabor, to Panama, and ordered to report to the commanding officer of the Pacific station for a passage to Golfito. I have had the honor to report the same to you. By the time he reached Panama, Lieut. Jeffers was with us again, having obtained a chart of the beauty and value of the harbor of Golfito, a chart of which is required by the navy of the world. Good harbors on the Pacific coast are so rare that this one should be made known. In this short sketch I am constrained to urge the publication of the survey of Lieut. Jeffers.

THE OCEAN.
To Dr. Evans, the geologist, we must look for a state ment of the marine contained in the coal beds, which clearly shows that there is coal in great abundance, and of excellent quality.

That on the Chagres river grows freely, and must prove valuable for steam power. Two thousand bushels were taken from the Chagres, and both were layed in their places of the quality and quantity of the coal, and asserted that they had used it in cooking in preference to wood. This coal, it must be remembered, was from the surface or outcrops of the veins, which always lie near with the opening of the veins of

the road.

The report of Lieutenant Jeffers, the Topographical Engineer, is as follows:—

“The road, and particularly of the last part, I have seen a very small and unimportant part—that touch ing the banks of the Río Grande—and the subject is not within the range of my present knowledge.”

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